

# The 5-Minute Fire Door Safety Checklist

Presented by DB Fire Doors Limited

*Use this checklist to identify potential life-safety risks before your next official inspection.*

## 1. The Door Leaf (The Surface)

- No Damage:** Are there any holes, deep scratches, or splinters on the door surface?
- Structural Integrity:** Is the door warped or bowed? (A fire door must sit flush against the frame).
- Glass/Glazing:** If there is a window, is the glass cracked or loose? Is the beading around the glass secure?
- The Integrity Mark:** Is there a permanent etched mark (e.g., BS EN 12600) in the corner of any glass?

## 2. The Seals

- Intumescent Seals:** Are the heat-expanding strips (usually in the door edge or frame) present and undamaged?
- No Paint:** Ensure the seals haven't been painted over, as this can prevent them from working in a fire.
- Smoke Seals:** If fitted, are the "brush" or "flipper" seals intact to prevent smoke passage?

## 3. Gaps & Hinges

- The 3mm Rule:** Is the gap between the door and the frame less than 4mm (about the thickness of a £1 coin or two pennies) all the way around?
- The Bottom Gap:** Is the gap at the bottom of the door small enough (usually less than 8-10mm)?
- Hinges:** Are there at least three hinges? Are they firmly fixed with no missing screws or "leaking" oil?

## 4. Closing & Hardware

- Self-Closing:** Open the door halfway and let go. Does it close firmly into the latch on its own?
- No Obstructions:** Is the door free of wedges, fire extinguishers, or "hold-open" devices that aren't linked to the alarm?
- Hardware:** Do the handles and locks move smoothly without sticking?

**⚠ Identified an issue?** A "No" on any of these points indicates a potential safety risk and may mean your building is non-compliant. While some specific cases depend on your building's Fire Risk Assessment (FRA), any defect should be professionally reviewed to ensure it meets the required safety standards.

This checklist is for guidance purposes only and does not replace a formal Fire Door Inspection carried out by a qualified professional.

Regular maintenance is a legal requirement under the Regulatory Reform (Fire Safety) Order 2005